

Office of the State Fire Marshal

A Bureau of the Washington State Patrol

Celebrate Legally Fireworks Enforcement Campaign

Model Plan for Safe Seizure, Transportation and Storage of Fireworks

The following information is intended for use by local jurisdictions who will be involved in the confiscation or seizure, transport, or storage of fireworks. In addition, information is provided regarding procedures that may be used when local jurisdictions are confronted with illegal explosive devices. This document is intended to be a general use guideline, however, local ordinances should be considered before implementing this plan. Retail sales of fireworks in stands are required to be licensed by the State Fire Marshal's Office and approved by the local jurisdiction.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide guidance to local jurisdictions in developing a plan for the safe handling of fireworks and illegal explosive devices.

I. Safe Handling of Fireworks

- A. Provide information to agency personnel on how to identify and distinguish between consumer fireworks and illegal explosive devices.
- B. Definitions of fireworks and illegal explosive devices:
 1. Fireworks
 - a. Governed by RCW 70.77 (State Fireworks Law)
 2. Illegal explosive devices,
 - a. Governed by RCW 70.74 (The State Explosives Law)
- C. Develop a procedure and assign responsibilities for the seizure, transport, and temporary storage of fireworks.
 1. Identify which agency will provide the initial response to reports of fireworks.
 - a. Initial response to fireworks and illegal explosive devices is the responsibility of the local law enforcement or fire agency.
 2. Identify which agency will seize or confiscate the fireworks.
 - a. For fireworks, either the local law enforcement or fire agency may choose to seize.
 - To seize fireworks—A commissioned officer takes them into possession.
 - To confiscate fireworks—Non-commissioned personnel take them away with permission.
 - b. For Illegal Explosive Devices (I.E.D.s) see item II below.
 3. Identify which agency will transport the fireworks to a storage site. (See item "4" below).
 - a. If the local law enforcement or fire agency chooses to transport fireworks, to ensure employee safety, they must be transported in an approved day box. (See UFC Section 7702.3.7).
 - b. For other Illegal Explosive Devices (I.E.D.s) see item II below

4. Identify temporary storage locations where seized fireworks could be temporarily stored until transported to an approved magazine.
 - a. Temporary storage of seized fireworks must be in a secured, uninhabited facility. (example: fire or police station storage area).
 - b. Identify and contact local licensed magazine sites to establish an area where fireworks may be stored temporarily.
Note: Contact the Department of Labor and Industries at (360) 902-5569 for assistance in locating magazine sites and storage facilities.
5. Train local community responders on the plan. (Fire Officials, Law Enforcement, Public Works, Parks Departments, etc.)

II. Recommended procedures for black market manufactured illegal explosive devices, as suggested by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

- A. Due to their volatile nature, extreme caution must be used.

Procedures for fire agencies:

1. Do not attempt to touch or handle.
 2. Establish a safe perimeter.
 3. Evacuate if necessary.
 4. Notify law enforcement or your bomb squad.
- B. Any black market manufactured illegal explosive device or improvised explosive device shall be seized by a law enforcement agency and shall be handled only by a licensed bomb technician per RCW 70.74.400 and WAC 296-52-64005.
- C. Contact Labor and Industries, (360) 902-5563, (LEAVE MESSAGE) when Illegal Explosive Devices (I.E.D.s) are discovered.

Should you have any questions or information regarding fireworks licensing, please contact the Fire Protection Bureau at (360) 570-3133.